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1 STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
2 COUNTY OF ALLENDALE)
3 South Carolina Department)
of Health and Environmental)
4 Bureau of Air Quality,)
5 In Re:)
6 Grant Allendale, Inc. Draft)
Permit No. 0160-0020-CB,)
7)
8)
9 _____)

Transcript
of
Public Hearing

10
11 The within public meeting was taken before
12 Christina L. Richardson, a Notary Public in and for the
13 State of South Carolina, commencing at the hour of 6:06
14 p.m., Thursday, November 13, 2008, at the Brandt
15 Agricultural Building, 398 Old Barnwell Road, Allendale,
16 South Carolina.
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24 REPORTED BY
25 CHRISTINA L. RICHARDSON

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APPEARANCES

2

DHEC officials present:

3

Donna Moye, Hearing Officer
Public Participation Coordinator
(803) 896-4281

4

E-Mail: moyedd@dhec.sc.gov

5

Elizabeth J. Basil, Director
Engineering Services Division
Bureau of Air Quality
(803) 898-4126

6

7

E-Mail: basilej@dhec.sc.gov

8

Katharine K. Buckner, Section Manager
Engineering Services Division
Bureau of Air Quality
(803) 898-3213

9

10

E-mail: bucknekk@dhec.sc.gov

11

Anna Mooney, P.E. Permit Engineer
Engineering Services Division
Bureau of Air Quality
(803) 898-4304

12

13

E-Mail: mooneyaf@dhec.sc.gov

14

H. Reed Corley, Environmental Health Manager
Air Toxics Section
Bureau of Air Quality
(803) 898-1422

15

16

E-Mail: corleyhr@dhec.sc.gov

17

Karen Lee, Public Information Specialist
Engineering Services Division
Bureau of Air Quality
(803) 898-4055

18

19

E-Mail: leeka@dhec.sc.gov

20

Soraya Purvis, Public Information Specialist
Engineering Services Division
Bureau of Air Quality
(803) 898-7678

21

22

E-Mail: purvissa@dhec.sc.gov

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APPEARANCES
(continued)

Speaker from Grant Allendale, Inc.

Mr. Jim Lake

Speakers from the public:

Mr. Francis Hills
Mr. G.H. "Rip" Kearse
Mr. Buddy Hooper
Ms. JoAnn Hill
Mr. S. Tim Adams
Mrs. Nita Adams
Mrs. Shea M. Kinard
Mr. Carl Gooding
Mr. Micky Scott
Mr. Ronnie Jackson
Mr. James Pinckney
Mr. Michael Whitaker

*DIGITALLY RECORDED AUDIO RETAINED FOR TWELVE (12) MONTHS
FROM DATE OF CERTIFICATION.

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MS. MOYE: Good Evening. It is now 6:05
3 P.M., on Thursday, November 13th, 2008, and
4 this public hearing regarding the Draft Air
5 Prevention of Significant Deterioration Permit
6 for Grant Allendale, Inc. is now called to
7 order. For the record, this facility is
8 located on US Highway 321 in Fairfax, South
9 Carolina, here in Allendale County.

10 My name is Donna Moye. I am a Public
11 Participation Coordinator for DHEC's Office of
12 Environmental Quality Control. Tonight I will
13 serve as the hearing officer for this hearing.
14 On behalf of DHEC, I welcome you and thank you
15 for taking the time to come here this evening.
16 We recognize that our meeting aren't always
17 convenient for everyone, so we do appreciate
18 you being here.

19 Before I go any further, there are a few
20 items that I would like to address. First, I
21 would ask that you to please turn off or
22 silence your cell phones so that others are not
23 disturb others during this hearing.

24 Next, if you have not already done so, I
25 encourage each of you to sign the attendance

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1 sheet located at the sign-in table. By signing
2 in, this will ensure that DHEC has a complete
3 record of all attendees at this hearing. We
4 have asked for your mailing or e-mail addresses
5 on the sign-in sheet so that we can notify you
6 of any future information regarding Grant
7 Allendale.

8 Third, when you signed in you should have
9 received a folder with information pertaining
10 to this hearing. This is -- this is the folder
11 that was handed to you when you signed in. If
12 you did not receive one of these, please raise
13 your hand and one of our staff will bring one
14 to you. In this folder there are various
15 pieces of information you may find useful,
16 including an agenda for this hearing, a list of
17 DHEC staff with their contact information, and
18 a pre-addressed comment form, should you need
19 it.

20 Next, I would also like to point out our
21 Court Reporter, who is seated to my left. She
22 will be responsible for preparing a written
23 report or a transcript of the formal part of
24 this hearing. The transcript will serve as the
25 official record of this public hearing. If at

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1 some later time you are interested in reviewing
2 the transcript, you may request to see it or
3 obtain a copy.

4 The purpose of this hearing is to provide
5 a formal opportunity for you to give us your
6 verbal and written comments. This is also an
7 opportunity for DHEC staff and representatives
8 of Grant Allendale to present information to
9 you about the draft permit.

10 It is important that you know that the
11 requested air permit has not been approved and
12 is still in draft form. The decision to grant
13 or deny this permit has not been made at the
14 time of this hearing. All comments received
15 will be reviewed by DHEC staff prior to making
16 a permit decision, so your input is very
17 important to us. A decision as to whether or
18 not the air permit will be approved, modified,
19 or denied will not be made tonight, during this
20 hearing.

21 We recognize that many of you may have
22 concerns and questions regarding this draft
23 permit. The comments you share may provide
24 DHEC staff with additional ideas or thoughts
25 about the draft permit. Please understand that

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1 this is not a question and answer session.
2 This is considered a formal hearing, where
3 comments made will be recorded. To be sure
4 that everyone has the opportunity to be heard,
5 questions will not be answered by DHEC Staff
6 during this formal hearing.

7 Please note that the draft permit has been
8 written to ensure that Grant Allendale can
9 operate in compliance with state and federal
10 air quality regulations. These regulations are
11 in place to protect human health and welfare
12 and to ensure that air quality standards are
13 maintained.

14 We welcome your comments this evening. If
15 you plan to make oral comments, you should have
16 noted this on the sign-in sheet. If you are
17 unsure at this time if you will be making an
18 oral comment, that's okay too. I will call on
19 everyone who has indicated that they do -- do
20 want to comment first and then I will give
21 anyone else who has not had a chance to speak
22 the opportunity to come forward. Written
23 comments are also welcome and may be given to
24 me tonight -- (clears throat) excuse me -- or
25 you may submit written comments directly to

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1 DHEC. The address where written comments may
2 be submitted is included in your folder.

3 All written comments must be received by
4 DHEC no later than close of business on
5 November 20th, 2008. Again, that date is
6 November 20th, 2008, one week from today. If
7 you have questions about submitting written
8 comments, please see a DHEC staff member
9 tonight before you leave.

10 In order for this hearing to move forward
11 in a timely and orderly fashion, I would like
12 to cover some guidelines that have been
13 established:

14 1) There will be no cross-examination or
15 questions and answers while a presentations or
16 comment is being made. I, however, ask a
17 speaker to clarify a point.

18 2) All comments tonight will be made from
19 this podium. And as you can see, we have the
20 cords taped down. We prefer that you come up
21 through this way here, because there is a cord
22 here and there's a large cord here and we don't
23 want anyone to trip. So if you could just walk
24 up directly through here and then leave through
25 here as well.

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1 3) So that everyone has an opportunity to
2 speak, your comments should not exceed more
3 than 5 minutes per individual. Please remember
4 that the quality of what each person is saying
5 is what's important tonight, not how many
6 people say the same thing.

7 For this hearing, we will proceed in the
8 following order:

9 First: Ms. Anna Mooney with DHEC's
10 Bureau of Air Quality will explain the
11 Department's draft permit.

12 Second: A presentation will be made by
13 Mr. Jim Lake on behalf of Grant Allendale, Inc.

14 Third: I will then call on individuals
15 who have indicated on the sign-in sheet that
16 they would like to make a comment. Speakers
17 will be heard in the order in which you signed
18 in.

19 And fourth: Anyone who has decided during
20 the course of the evening that they would like
21 to make a comment, but who did not indicate
22 their intention to speak by checking the box on
23 the sign-in sheet, will be called upon at
24 random by raising their hand. Please remember
25 that this time will only be for those who have

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1 not yet spoken.

2 Prior to making your comment at the
3 microphone, I would ask that each of you
4 clearly state your name and the group you are
5 representing, if any, for the court reporter.
6 If you have a written copy of your comments,
7 and don't mind leaving it with us please give
8 it to me when you have finished speaking.

9 Should any statements begin to digress
10 from the intent of this hearing, I will
11 interrupt the speaker and ask him or her to
12 limit their comments to the technical issues
13 regarding the draft permit.

14 I ask that each speaker be allowed to
15 present his or her views without interruption.
16 We cannot allow disruptions to alter the intent
17 this hearing. Each person who has requested to
18 participate here tonight must be given a fair
19 opportunity to provide his or her presentation
20 or comment.

21 I will now call on Ms. Anna Mooney of the
22 Bureau of Air Quality, who will be giving a
23 brief overview of the draft permit DHEC has
24 written for Grant Allendale. Anna?

25 MS. MOONEY: Good Evening. My name is

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1 Anna Mooney. I am a permit engineer for the
2 Bureau of Air Quality within the South Carolina
3 Department of Health and Environmental Control.
4 I am here tonight to share with you some
5 information regarding the latest permitting
6 activity at the Grant Allendale facility
7 located in Fairfax, South Carolina.

8 First, I will -- want to go through a
9 brief time line of permitting actions at the
10 Grant Allendale facility. Then I will give you
11 some information regarding the major
12 differences between the draft proposed permit
13 and the facility's current permit. These
14 differences include things such as the permit
15 type, the type of permit limits, and a few
16 other, more minor, changes.

17 Now, we'll begin with the permitting
18 timeline. In April of 2005, Grant Allendale
19 submitted an initial application to the
20 Department for the construction of a new
21 Oriented Strand Board, or OSB, facility. In
22 August of 2005, the Department held a public
23 hearing to discuss the draft proposed permit
24 for the new facility. The final synthetic
25 minor construction permit was issued in

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1 September of 2005. In just a few minutes we
2 will discuss more about what it means that the
3 permit was synthetic minor. But for now, I
4 want to continue on with the permitting
5 timeline.

6 In September 2006, after the completion of
7 construction, Grant Allendale submitted an as-
8 built permit modification application to
9 address changes that were made during
10 construction. Most of these changes addressed
11 in the application were minor equipment changes
12 such as updates on equipment sizes and/or the
13 number of pieces of equipment. In addition,
14 changes to the site plan were addressed and
15 Grant Allendale updated its air dispersion
16 modeling to accurately reflect the constructed
17 facility.

18 As the draft permit neared completion, the
19 facility completed source testing requirements,
20 as required by their permit. The permitting
21 action for the as-built permit was placed on
22 hold until the Department received source
23 testing results.

24 In June of 2007 the facility submitted the
25 source testing results to the Department. As a

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1 result of the source testing, the permitting
2 action for the as-built permit was never
3 completed.

4 Instead, in December of 2007, Grant
5 Allendale submitted a PSD permit application to
6 the Department. This application has resulted
7 in the draft proposed permit that we are here
8 to discuss tonight.

9 So, how does the original permit differ
10 from the proposed permit? Well, there are
11 three main categories that we're going to talk
12 about: the permit type, the types of limits in
13 each permit, and other changes that are in the
14 permit such as the production rate and
15 equipment update.

16 First, though, I want to focus on the
17 differences in the type of permit that is being
18 issued. Originally, Grant Allendale was issued
19 a synthetic minor construction permit.

20 A synthetic -- a synthetic minor permit
21 contains federally enforceable limits to keep
22 emissions at the facility below a PSD major
23 source threshold. The major source threshold
24 for each of the pollutants listed on this slide
25 is 250 tons per year. If a facility has the

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1 potential to emit more than 250 tons per year,
2 it is considered a major source and must go
3 through the PSD permitting process. However,
4 the facility can request permit limits to keep
5 emissions below the major source threshold. In
6 return, the facility then does not have to go
7 through the PSD permitting process and is
8 issued a synthetic minor construction permit.
9 The facility essentially avoids the PSD process
10 by limiting emissions to stay below the major
11 source threshold.

12 But, what happens if the facility does not
13 or cannot take limits to remain below this
14 threshold?

15 Then the facility must go through the PSD
16 permitting process. PSD stands for Prevention
17 of Significant Deterioration. It is a
18 permitting process that major sources must go
19 through to obtain a construction permit.

20 There are several requirements that the
21 facility must meet to complete this PSD
22 permitting process. The first requirement of
23 PSD is that the facility must undergo a Best
24 Available Control Technology, or BACT, Review.
25 During a BACT review, processes at the facility

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1 are compared to similar processes at similar
2 facilities across the U.S. to ensure that the
3 facility is maximizing the control of emissions
4 from each process. As a result of the BACT
5 review, the permit may include specific pound
6 per hour limitations, work practice standards,
7 and/or operational standards.

8 In addition to a review of the control
9 technology, the facility must perform an air
10 quality analysis to show that they will meet
11 National Ambient Air Quality Standards. These
12 standards are set at levels designed to protect
13 the health of the public and the surrounding
14 environment.

15 The facility must also demonstrate that
16 they will not violate maximum PSD increments as
17 defined in the PSD regulations.

18 Each component of this Air Quality
19 Analysis is demonstrated through air dispersion
20 modeling.

21 Also demonstrated through Air Dispersion
22 Modeling is the Additional Impacts Analysis
23 that the facility must perform. For this
24 analysis, the facility must consider any
25 potential impact that it will have on

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1 visibility, soils, and vegetation in the
2 surrounding area. The facility must also
3 consider the impact of potential growth in the
4 area.

5 So for the draft proposed PSD permit,
6 Grant Allendale has completed all of these
7 necessary PSD permitting requirements. And as
8 a result, there has been a change of the type
9 of permit limits that are included in the
10 proposed permit.

11 Originally, the synthetic minor permit had
12 limits that were based on PSD avoidance. The
13 permit included operational and production
14 limits that limited the facility's emissions
15 below the major source threshold.

16 This draft proposed permit includes
17 process and pollutant specific limits based on
18 the BACT review. These limits were more
19 specific and are designed to ensure that the
20 facility is controlling emissions with the best
21 available control technology at all times.

22 Limits for PM, Nox, SO2, Volatile Organic
23 Compounds, and CO are included in the permit
24 for several emission sources at the facility.

25 So in addition to the permit type and

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1 permit limits, the permit also includes a few
2 other changes.

3 Some equipment changes that were addressed
4 originally in the as-built permit application
5 and the site changes have all been updated in
6 this draft proposed permit. In addition, the
7 permitted maximum production has also
8 increased.

9 So now that I've given you a very brief
10 overview of the changes to the permit, you may
11 be wondering what happens next.

12 After we review the comments from the
13 hearing tonight, we will draft a response to
14 address all of the comments. If you have any
15 additional comments that are not addressed here
16 tonight, you may submit them to the Department
17 by November 20th. After all of the comments
18 have been addressed, a permit decision will be
19 made.

20 Once again, if you have any questions or
21 additional comments about my presentation or
22 this draft proposed permit, you may submit them
23 to me by November 20th. Or, if at any time,
24 you have issues or concerns about the
25 operations at the facility, please contact the

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1 regional office located in Aiken. Thank you!

2 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Anna. Now I will
3 call on Mr. Jim Lake who will be giving a
4 presentation on behalf of Grant Allendale.

5 JIM LAKE: Thank you, Donna and DHEC and,
6 I guess, the community for the opportunity to
7 spend a few minutes talking a little bit about
8 Grant and what it means to the community and
9 what we think it means from an environmental
10 aspect also. But I think also it gives us a
11 good opportunity or it give me a good
12 opportunity to talk a little bit about the
13 operation as far as the economy goes. I know
14 that's probably a little bit on everybody's
15 mind too out there, so I can touch on that a
16 little bit while I'm up here.

17 Where am I pointing this at? Okay.

18 What I'll do is talk a little bit about my
19 role in all of this and then really how Grant
20 plays a part in Allendale both from an
21 environmental standpoint and in the community
22 in general.

23 I guess, the main reason why I want to
24 talk about myself, because you should know
25 who's ultimately accountable. And in the

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1 United States, for Grant, I am the one that's
2 accountable. I'm the Senior Officer. I am the
3 officer that is in charge of all operations for
4 Grant, but most accountable in South Carolina.

5 I've had over 24 years in this industry
6 and most of it was with Louisiana Pacific,
7 which was the largest OSB producer in the
8 world. So I've been involved in over 20 OSB
9 mills and responsible for those mills over my
10 career. So we've got a lot of experience as
11 far as the technology that goes into these
12 plants. And one of the things that attracted
13 me of coming to the Grant was, I believe we
14 have state-of-the-art technology in this
15 facility. And I think it's got the best
16 pollution control equipment of any facility out
17 there.

18 I've always had a strong commitment over
19 the 20 years -- or 20 years that I worked with
20 Louisiana Pacific we probably went from worst
21 to first when it comes to safety and
22 environmental standards. I happen to be one of
23 the operational leaders of that along with Dave
24 Harvey who's with me also as Vice President of
25 our Environmental Controls.

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1 Basically, we make oriented strand board
2 out at the plant here. It's -- the facility
3 was designed from the get-go to really protect
4 the environment, both from a noise level and
5 emissions. I'll show you a picture in a little
6 -- in a few minutes of the facility from the --
7 from the air, but in general, you know, we're
8 18 acres of facility, an operation nestled in
9 with about 450 acres of surrounding land. It's
10 definitely one of the most advanced facilities
11 that there is in the industry, but not just in
12 the U.S. and Canada, but also in the world.
13 Either I've been to or one of my team has been
14 to most mills in this industry and this is
15 without a doubt the best technology out there.
16 And our people insistence, in general, are
17 designed for environmental excellence.

18 You know, our contributions to the
19 community; we have a 135 direct mill employees.
20 On the initial start-up we actually got to as
21 high as about 165. You know, we've had some
22 lay-offs lately. We're at about 121 right now.
23 You know, but we have a lot of jobs, about 200
24 jobs to go; it's into harvesting for the
25 facility. You've got 50 additional indirect

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1 jobs with suppliers and a vast majority of
2 these individuals and their families live in
3 the local community. So it's a huge impact
4 overall. I mean, we pour about 40 billion --
5 or 40 million dollars -- I'm sorry -- into the
6 community on an annual basis when we're
7 operating out there, so.

8 Am I doing something wrong here? There we
9 go. Sorry.

10 This just give you a little aerial view of
11 our facility. You can see, like I said, we've
12 got about 18 acres that this is nestled in.
13 And you know, along Highway 321 really is the
14 only area that's exposed right now, but we have
15 myrtles, a number of different trees out there,
16 cypress, Leland cypress that built along the --
17 321. You know, they'll grow anywhere from
18 three to five feet a year. The cypress will
19 probably get somewhere between 70 -- anywhere
20 from 70 to 100 feet tall. When this facility
21 is -- is operating over the next few years,
22 when all the trees get up to where they're at,
23 you're really not even going to know the
24 facility exists there not only from a scenic
25 standpoint, the topography, but also it's going

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1 to help additionally on any noise that you may
2 be hearing.

3 I'm just not very good at this button
4 thing.

5 You know, it's a pretty simple process.
6 There's a lot of complexities within the
7 process in each one of these things, but
8 basically what we're doing is we're just taking
9 wood and -- logs and turning it into OSB. So
10 we're -- we're cutting into strands and then
11 we're heating it up and then we're rebuilding
12 it, engineering it so it's into 4x8, 4x9, 4x10
13 type panels. But overall a pretty simple
14 process.

15 But I think, you know, the -- the
16 important thing would be, if you're really
17 interested in the process, come on out and see
18 us. If we have enough interest we'll gladly
19 set up tours any time that we can put them
20 together.

21 So protecting the environment, you know,
22 we got a pretty experienced staff. I've been
23 doing this a lot of years. Steve Pohl, who's
24 our Environmental Manager at the mill, would
25 also be, you know, a direct contact anytime you

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1 want to discuss about the facilities
2 environmental aspects out there. Along with
3 safety, Steve is also in charge of safety at
4 the mill.

5 Chad Eisner, our plant manager Chad who
6 worked with me for about 12 years at my prior
7 company who's worked under very stringent
8 environmental and safety standards throughout
9 his career.

10 And then we've got Ed Griffin who's our
11 Environmental Director from the corporate
12 standpoint, but -- who is based out of Canada
13 but isn't here tonight.

14 You know, we are SFI certified. We use
15 the best practices and utilize pretty much the
16 whole tree. You know, it's a renewable
17 resource; it's very fast growing.

18 Our pollution control system is state-of-
19 the art -- are state-of-the-art and world class
20 and we spend over 30 million dollars on this
21 equipment. You know, we spend another 6
22 million dollars annually with gas and
23 electricity just to run this equipment to
24 ensure these stacks are clean.

25 And you can see it in our employees. We

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1 have great policies out there and we're getting
2 better all the time. I mean, it's a -- we're
3 in the middle of a start-up, it's an
4 evaluation. But we have a rigorous orientation
5 process that every employee out there has to
6 understand all of our policies and then that's
7 -- that's updated with them each year.

8 We monitor, you know, and focus on all the
9 key areas, the whole management staff. Every
10 meeting that we have as a staff starts out with
11 safety and environmental controls on how we're
12 doing. So it is the forefront of all of our
13 discussions out there.

14 Like I said, we have the best available
15 control technology that there is in our
16 industry. You know, the electrostatic
17 precipitators and the RTOs and the pneumatic
18 systems that we have collecting dust are the
19 best in the industry. You know, we have 99
20 percent particulate removal, 95 percent VOCs.

21 I know, Mr. Kearse, you brought up or I
22 think Buddy maybe you brought up the other day
23 a concern over formaldehyde which would fall
24 under the -- into the VOC category. I mean, I
25 think you'll find that you have more VOCs in

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1 the surrounding area forest than you'll have
2 anytime coming out of our facility.

3 But you can see the rest of the -- the
4 properties that we have that either meet or
5 exceed our requirements. And then we control
6 Nox, really, through staged combustion and
7 recirculation of gasses.

8 So our basic commitment to the community,
9 you know, I don't think it's good enough just
10 to be compliant. I talked a lot about our
11 equipment and that we're compliant. Well,
12 obviously, that's -- that's just a part of it.
13 You know, most of your homesteads were here
14 long before Grant Allendale showed up, so we
15 understand that. You know, I met with Mr.
16 Kearse and the folks that he represents the
17 other day and I'm willing to meet with anybody
18 in this community one-on-one or as a group
19 because I -- you know, the last thing was want
20 to do is to be a major inconvenience. You
21 know, when you go down the highway you
22 shouldn't feel any different that you did five
23 years ago when you drove down the highway or
24 you walk out in your yards.

25 So I think from a compliance standpoint we

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1 are without a doubt going to be the best in the
2 industry with the equipment we have and the
3 systems we will continue to put in. But we
4 also want to be a great neighbor and, you know,
5 that means that there's a lot more work that
6 goes into that than just pollution control
7 equipment.

8 I understand that and I guess that's why I
9 wanted to be here tonight because, you know,
10 although Steve who is our main contact because
11 he is head of our safety and environmental
12 controls out at the plant, you know, you can
13 call the switchboard and Diana Atteberry, who's
14 our main administrative -- head of our
15 administrative staff out there can get a hold
16 of me any time pretty much and track me down.
17 I do office out of Allendale the majority of
18 the time, but I have responsibility for the
19 other operations, but she can always track me
20 down.

21 So we have listened and -- to some
22 concerns and we definitely want to listen if
23 there's -- if there's more out there. You
24 know, we don't have any doubt that we're going
25 to be, so we need to -- we need to make sure

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1 that, you know, that we're a big part of the
2 community. We've been in the start-up for the
3 last year and a half, so we haven't got an
4 opportunity to spend a lot of time in the
5 community.

6 But, you know, we're going through some
7 tough times like everybody else with the
8 economy, so we've got some layoffs that are
9 going on out there. But this facility will be
10 here when no other facility in this industry
11 is. And about 60 percent of the industry is
12 down right now, but with our technology, with
13 what Grant put in place here, this is a long-
14 term thing and it will recover quicker and it
15 will be here longer than anything out there.
16 And that's why I came to this company because I
17 -- you know, this is the future of OSB.

18 Again, you know, if you have any questions
19 specifically any time, and as Donna and Anna
20 have -- have said, you can call DHEC directly,
21 but if you want to talk to somebody at the
22 plant, Steve is our main contact out there.
23 But we're willing to come out to your -- your
24 homes and hear what you hear and see what you
25 see and work with you anything that's -- that

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1 you think might be an issue and just listen to
2 your suggestions in general, so.

3 I thank you for your time and look forward
4 to working with you in the future. Thank you.
5 I think I'm done.

6 MS. MOYE: I think you're done. I'm going
7 to leave this up to give --

8 JIM LAKE: Okay.

9 MS. MOYE: -- everyone a chance to --

10 JIM LAKE: All right.

11 MS. MOYE: -- to note down that phone
12 number and name. If you don't already have it,
13 we'll leave that up for you.

14 Thank you, Mr. Lake.

15 That concludes the presentations by DHEC
16 and the facility regarding the draft permit.

17 We will now hear from you. I will call on
18 those of you who indicated on the sign-in sheet
19 that you would like to make an oral statement.
20 You will be called upon in the order that you
21 signed in. I'd like to remind you that if you
22 have a written copy of your statements, if you
23 would leave it with us, that will be helpful.

24 And I'd also remind you to please come up
25 to my left here and not to my right.

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1 And I will try not to butcher anyone's
2 name, please call me on it if I do. Our first
3 speaker is Francis Hills.

4 FRANCIS HILLS: I don't have a whole lot
5 to say except that if the wind is in the wrong
6 direction, my house is southeast of that plant
7 and that is wind out the north or the
8 northeast, the noise and the burning in my eyes
9 is almost unbelievable the way it gets and
10 especially that noise. It sounds like a train
11 wreck in the yard. Thank you.

12 MS. MOYE: Thank you Mr. Hills. Next, Mr.
13 G.H. Kearse.

14 G.H. KEARSE: Yes, ma'am. My name is Rip
15 Kearse. I'm a property owner and neighbor of
16 Grant Allendale. And I'm -- I'm for Grant
17 Allendale. I -- we need it. We should have
18 it, but it's not a question of whether I'm for
19 Grant Allendale, it's whether Grant Allendale
20 is for me.

21 We have a terrible situation out there. I
22 got up at three o'clock this morning and
23 listened to the noise. There's a railroad
24 track that goes between my place, which is
25 perhaps 350 yards from Grant Allendale --

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1 That's an approximate, I haven't measured it --
2 but the noise is so severe, it's more
3 pronounced and heavy than the railroad which is
4 between my place and Grant Allendale, and it's
5 continuous. Now sometimes it's greater than
6 others, but sometimes it's enough to wake you
7 up. I don't know what the solution of it is.

8 But we've been on that place since 1865.
9 We -- my grandfather came home from the war,
10 bought 150 acres of land for \$400 and we've
11 been there ever since. We've cleared the land
12 and we want to stay there. Some of my children
13 don't want to go out there because of the
14 noise. Now, I've all my life wanted to build a
15 house out there. And now I'm to the place I
16 can build a house, because of this noise I
17 don't know whether I want to live out there or
18 not. And it's that sort of situation.

19 They say they're going to increase the
20 production from 147 thousand board feet per
21 hour to 175 board feet per hour. Now that
22 means that if they're going -- not add any
23 equipment, that means it's going to run at
24 faster rate. And if it runs at a faster rate,
25 the -- the noise is going up. It's going to

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1 increase. And that's why I'm here tonight. I
2 want people in the County to know.

3 It's -- I don't know how to compare the
4 train noise with -- with the plant noise, but
5 it's considerably more. And like I say, the
6 plant noise is continuous, the train goes
7 through and it's gone. But I don't think
8 they've got the right to depreciate my property
9 and that's what it's doing, anyway you cut it.
10 What'cha going to use it for? Nobody's going
11 to come out there and live. And I don't want
12 to be a bad neighbor, but like I said in the
13 beginning, it's not whether -- it's not whether
14 I'm for Grant; it's whether Grant's for me.
15 And I suppose that's my case. I'm going to --
16 I'm going to watch it and see what happens.

17 We've cleared the land with a shovel and
18 an axe, and I think we should be able or
19 allowed to live there in a peaceful,
20 environmental fashion. Thank you very much.

21 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Kearse. Our
22 third speaker is Buddy Hooper.

23 BUDDY HOOPER: Well, I live about three-
24 quarters of a mile straight east of the plant.
25 And when the wind is blowing east, my eyes burn

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1 all the time and almost water comes out of
2 them. But my -- I got one eye blind when I was
3 in the service and the other one is weak and I
4 sure don't want to lose that other eye. And I
5 don't know what Grant to do to clear it up a
6 little bit, but I'm for the jobs. We need
7 people working. We need the economy. And I
8 hear the plant a lot too. It's a lot of noise,
9 but I can get by with the noise a lot better
10 than I can with the -- whatever's in the air
11 that makes my eyes burn and stay red all the
12 time. I'm taking two or three different kind
13 of eye drops trying to help it, but I don't
14 know. I just -- just hope they can do
15 something to clear it up to where it don't burn
16 my eyes so much. Thank you.

17 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Hooper. Our
18 fourth speaker is Joann Hill.

19 JOANN HILL: Hi. I'm acting Administrator
20 for Allendale County and I'd like to read a
21 letter to you, a letter of support, from the
22 five members of County Council to Mrs. Karen
23 Lee of DHEC. "In regards to the above
24 referenced and referring to the Notice of
25 Public Hearing Regarding a Draft Air

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1 Construction Permit dated October 9th, 2008,
2 the Allendale County Council supports and
3 hereby requests that DHEC approve the requested
4 PSD air construction permit that Grant
5 Allendale, Inc., has made application to DHEC
6 to remove synthetic minor limits previously
7 established by Construction Permit NO. 01 60-
8 0020- --

9 MR. HARDEE: Let me see if I can get this
10 working, it's hard to hear you. I don't know
11 what --

12 MS. MOYE: I was trying to let her finish.

13 MR. HARDEE: She said to interrupt her.
14 Okay. All right.

15 FRANCIS HILLS: Okay. And this letter is
16 signed by five members of County Council.

17 I also have a letter of support from Mayor
18 Cohen for the Town of Fairfax requesting that
19 DHEC approve the requested PSD Air Construction
20 Permit that Grant Allendale had applied for to
21 remove the synthetic minor limits also and a --
22 also from Mayor Troy Brant from the Town of
23 Ulmer, there's also a letter of support. Thank
24 you.

25 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Hill. We

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1 apologize for our equipment malfunction. We'll
2 have these letters up here if any of you did
3 not hear that and would like to see those
4 before you leave tonight.

5 Speaker number 5 is S. Tim Adams.

6 S. TIM ADAMS: Well, I've been a resident
7 of Allendale for a little while. I work in the
8 wood industry and they're -- I don't see any
9 problem, to my knowledge, of Grant. Grant
10 Industry [sic] is a good facility here in
11 Allendale county, which we need. There's no
12 other jobs for the -- the people here in
13 Allendale have to go out of town for jobs. And
14 this is an opportunity for us to have some jobs
15 in the town of Allendale, in the county. And
16 it takes a lot of tax -- the tax -- they pay
17 taxes and it takes a lot of the burden off of
18 each of us individuals that have to pay taxes.
19 And I'm for it one hundred percent and I think
20 if anybody will sit down and think about it,
21 they don't want to close this place. This
22 place needs to be open, not only for me, for
23 the upcoming generations that's going to be
24 here past me and others is -- we need it. I
25 mean, you can sit there and try to close it if

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1 you want to, but don't be blind. Thank you.

2 BUDDY HOOPER: That's what I don't want to
3 be, blind.

4 (Audience applauds.)

5 MS. MOONEY: Thank you Mr. Adams. Our
6 sixth speaker is Nita Adams.

7 NITA ADAMS: I am also a resident of
8 Allendale County here in Allendale. I think
9 that Grant Allendale should stay. I think that
10 it does a lot of good for our community not
11 only just for the employees that they have, but
12 for the ones that are loggers that go in there.

13 It doesn't matter which way the wind the
14 blows, I don't smell anything. I don't -- I've
15 rode by there on several occasions, I haven't
16 heard anything out of the ordinary. The trains
17 don't wake nobody up. I don't see anybody
18 trying to shut the trains from coming down
19 through town and there's houses right across
20 the street from the tracks. So therefore, I
21 think Allendale Grant [sic] needs to be here
22 and I don't think that anybody should -- should
23 even want to close a facility like that down.
24 I think it would be worse on us as individuals
25 in Allendale county because our taxes will go

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1 up. Some people may be able to afford their
2 taxes, we can't. We don't have thousands of
3 dollars to shell out for these taxes when we
4 have Grant Allendale that pays a lot of our
5 taxes for us.

6 (Audience applauds.)

7 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Ms. Adams.

8 Just a reminder, if you could, please hold
9 your applause so we can make sure we get to
10 everyone tonight.

11 Speaker number seven, is it Shea Kinard?

12 SHEA M. KINARD: Good evening. I live
13 approximately -- well, exactly 3.3 miles from
14 Grant Allendale. I have never smelled
15 anything. Very rarely do I hear any noise.
16 It's no more annoying than the train. I
17 understand the train comes, it goes, Grant
18 stays. Grant puts a lot of money in here. It
19 keeps a lot of money in my pocket as far as
20 taxes go. I'd like to see them stay. The
21 others, all I have to say to you is I hope you
22 can get use to because I hope they're here to
23 stay.

24 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Ms. Kinard.

25 Speaker number eight, Carl -- is it Goodum

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1 [sic]?

2 CARL GOODING: That's close enough.

3 (Audience laughs.)

4 MS. MOYE: Thank you.

5 CARL GOODING: I'm Carl Gooding and I'm on
6 the Allendale County Council, a member of the
7 Southern Carolina Alliance Board, and more
8 importantly than that I'm a business person in
9 this county. I have an investment here and I
10 keep watching it go down the drain because of
11 no development.

12 You three guys, I'm sorry that your eyes
13 are burning and that you hear things. But I've
14 been out there at the Grant plant probably as
15 many -- except for the employees, as many times
16 as anybody in this room. I've yet to smell
17 anything except fresh sawed wood, which I love
18 to smell anyway. And I -- and they give you
19 ear plugs to go through the plant. I did use
20 the ear plugs and we would go through the plant
21 and I had no problem hearing people talking to
22 me. So if there was an excess bunch of noise,
23 the decibel level inside that plant would be
24 much higher than your farm, your place. And --
25 and the decibel readings can taken to verify

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1 this. And I don't -- and I know you probably -
2 - you may have a problem. I think I know the
3 reason, but you may have a problem. But we're
4 not going to do that tonight.

5 I hope that DHEC will find it possible to
6 let these guys have their air permitting and
7 also for any possible expansion.

8 I've heard some arguments. One, is that
9 there is a chemical in the air. Number two,
10 that there is excess noise. I should know
11 about noise; I live by the railroad track in
12 Allendale. You talking about noise. And I
13 live also not too far from another couple of
14 plants, but you get used to this. I have not
15 smelled one thing at the plant except wood that
16 has been cut, fresh cut wood and I like to
17 smell that.

18 I've been to the plants in Canada and I
19 can vouch for these guys, James Pinckney was
20 along with me, Danny Black. We went to a
21 number of their plants in Canada, even the
22 older plants. They're very environmentally
23 conscious in Canada. Those are the cleanest
24 plants I've ever walked through. There's no
25 dust on the floor or nothing.

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1 These guys have an ultra-modern facility
2 out here. It's the largest OSB board
3 manufacturing plant in the world, you should be
4 proud of it.

5 I'm like you, taxes are a problem. I've
6 heard about the fact that Grant has devalued
7 the property. You know what's devalued the
8 property? Not Grant, it's because the State
9 Treasury Department says we have a lack of
10 retail business and industrial development. It
11 decreased your millage down to 22,000 mil two
12 years ago, this year it dropped down below
13 20,000 and it's not because of Grant. It's
14 because we don't have anything here.

15 UNKNOWN MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE: That's
16 right.

17 CARL GOODING: And that probably has
18 nothing to do with doing a scientific permit,
19 because I know nothing about chemicals or
20 anything, but I do know that some of us have an
21 investment here. And talking about wanting to
22 stay here, we want to stay here, but it's
23 getting harder and harder. And Grant's not
24 going to do anything but make the value of your
25 land go up.

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1 We had over a thousand people when DHEC
2 was permitting and had these public hearings
3 two years ago. And I think the Fairfax down
4 there was the site of, the Community Hut, and
5 we had over a thousand people at all the
6 hearings. Okay. We had one protestor back
7 then even before it was built and it was Rip
8 Kearse. He back then said that the noise level
9 was going to bother him. He didn't say
10 anything about the smell because it was not
11 there, but he's still protesting. And that's
12 all I have to say.

13 G.H. KEARSE: Let me ask a question.

14 CARL GOODING: Ask it.

15 G.H. KEARSE: What do you think we're
16 doing?

17 CARL GOODING: You're protesting Grant.

18 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Gooding.

19 CARL GOODING: (Inaudible.)

20 MS. MOYE: Mr. Gooding, thank you.

21 G.H. KEARSE: (Inaudible.)

22 MS. MOYE: Mr. Kearse, thank you. I would
23 like to remind you that we are here tonight to
24 give everyone a fair opportunity to speak and
25 we need to be respectful of each person's

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1 comments. So I would ask that you please
2 remember that whenever you come up.

3 Our ninth speaker is Micky Scott.

4 MICKY SCOTT: How you doing? I'm Micky
5 Scott. I'm one of the owners of Column's
6 Lumber Mill and I'm also here to support Grant.
7 We are not a competitor with them. We
8 cooperate with Grant and we know the issues
9 they are finding right now in the economy that
10 we have. And I can assure you, we deal with
11 DHEC on a regular basis. We have some of the
12 same issues that they deal with. And with
13 other industries throughout the south that I'm
14 familiar with, I can assure you DHEC is one of
15 the most proactive -- and I'm not saying that
16 as a compliment, because I know how much
17 trouble they cause. But they protect the
18 people in this state and in this county I can
19 assure you.

20 In the timber industry -- I don't know
21 whether y'all have seen the recent studies that
22 have come out -- is the number one industry in
23 this state; agribusiness. And I can assure
24 you, if this county does not support its
25 agribusiness and this timber industry, you do

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1 not know how much it will hurt. You do not
2 have the concept of the number of jobs that the
3 timber industry provides for this county. You
4 let it disappear and you will know and it will
5 be painful. Thank you.

6 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Scott. Our next
7 speaker is J. Morgan Kearse.

8 J. MORGAN KEARSE: My name is Morgan
9 Kearse and I work with my father here in
10 Allendale. I wasn't going to say anything
11 until the last couple of comments came up and
12 was directed at my father.

13 Now, I've spent my life out there and
14 there is a noticeable increase in noise. It
15 goes on 24 hours a day. It does drowned out
16 the train as it's passing through. Now, I
17 haven't been in the plant and I don't
18 particularly want to go into the plant, but I
19 want to let it be known to DHEC and let it be
20 known to Mr. Lake and all of his employees out
21 there at the plant that we've got a problem
22 with noise. I don't go out there as much as I
23 use to because I'm -- I spend all my time
24 practicing law now. But there are people who
25 live within a mile, mile and a half of that

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1 plant that are complaining of rashes and -- and
2 problems with their eyes. And I'm not saying
3 that this -- you know, that the plant needs to
4 be closed down. I'm saying something needs to
5 be done to address it.

6 If you live three miles out, maybe you
7 don't experience the noise, maybe you don't
8 experience the problems that others are
9 experiencing that within a mile of it. But I
10 think something needs to be done to determine
11 what's causing this. And I don't think
12 anything's been done as far as going out and
13 talking to those who within a one mile radius
14 of the plant or one and a half mile radius.
15 Talk to those people and find out what's going
16 on. That hasn't been done.

17 As for the noise, I've spent a lot of time
18 in Allendale and I hear Collum Lumber Mill
19 running all day long and it's not offensive to
20 me during the day, but at night when everything
21 is quiet things at Grant continue to run and it
22 makes a lot of noise. I don't think anyone has
23 done a noise study to determine how loud it is,
24 what the decibels are a mile, a mile and a half
25 out, but it is very noticeable and it will keep

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1 you up at night.

2 Those are the issues. We're not saying
3 Grant should not here. I really appreciate
4 them being here and helping offset out tax
5 burden. Helping pay employees so that they can
6 make a living, so that they can provide for
7 their own so that we can all stay here in the
8 county. But I would like to see something done
9 to address to two major complaints that are
10 coming out tonight.

11 Now before ground was broken at Grant, I
12 got letters from Jim Lake saying that there
13 would be no objectionable noise. There is an
14 objectionable noise. I got a letter saying
15 that there would be no problem with pollution.
16 There is a problem with pollution. So I'm not
17 trying to say that they shouldn't be here, I'm
18 just trying to say address the needs of the
19 people who are having problems and that's as --
20 that can mean come out here and talk to them
21 and find out what's going on.

22 That's all I've got to say. Thank you.

23 MS. MOYE: Thank you, Mr. Kearse. Our
24 next speaker is Ronnie Jackson with the town of
25 Allendale.

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1 RONNIE JACKSON: Thank you. As the newly
2 elected Mayor of the Town of Allendale -- I
3 wanted to put that out --

4 (The audience laughs.)

5 RONNIE JACKSON: The Town of Allendale
6 expresses the support of the Grant forest
7 production plant located in Allendale County.
8 The Grant forest production with it's over 200
9 million dollars investment and created over 120
10 well paying jobs that we -- they are very
11 needed. We -- we support you very heartedly.
12 They have also extended a magnitude of support
13 to our community which has been greatly
14 appreciated. We consider it's an honor to have
15 a leader of industrial such as Grant located in
16 the Town of Allendale -- well, in the county of
17 Allendale. The Town of Allendale will continue
18 to support you. We need you. We need these
19 jobs. Have you looked at the news lately? The
20 economy is going all to the devil. We need
21 them bad. We need it bad, so we whole
22 heartedly support you.

23 MS. MOYE: Mr. Jackson, can you leave your
24 letter with us?

25 RONNIE JACKSON: I want to re-type it.

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1 MS. MOYE: Okay.

2 RONNIE JACKSON: Thank you.

3 MS. MOYE: Thank you Mr. Jackson. And we
4 are at our final speaker who signed up to speak
5 and I'm afraid this is the one that I can't
6 read, but it's James -- is maybe Pinckney?

7 JAMES PINCKNEY: That's correct.

8 MS. MOYE: All right. Come on down.

9 JAMES PINCKNEY: You did a good job. Good
10 evening. We stand here this afternoon to say
11 to you all, it's very good to be here in
12 Allendale. And I grew up here in Allendale.
13 I'm 56 years old. I grew up in this farm belt.
14 For 45 years the farmer have taken over and
15 managed Allendale county. It managed Allendale
16 county when I was a young man so that there was
17 no jobs but the farm for us to work to. But as
18 the years past our kids had an opportunity to
19 go to school and get a better learning. And as
20 they went to school and got a better learning
21 there was nowhere for them to go to work
22 because the farm had deteriorated. And they
23 didn't go to school just to come back to drive
24 a tractor or walk behind a mule. They needed
25 somewhere to go to work. And in order for them

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1 to go to work they had to leave Allendale
2 county to seek work elsewhere.

3 Grant Allendale is in the process of help
4 changing that stigma. Grant Allendale is in
5 the process of trying to give the young people
6 that growing up a better opportunity and a
7 better shot at life.

8 I realize that the noise that some of you
9 all may be hearing may be real. But one or two
10 of us should not be in the shape to stop
11 progress for the rest of us.

12 Yes, no doubt in my mind in 1952 when
13 someone heard that Savannah River Site meant to
14 -- meant to locate in Aiken and Barnwell and
15 Allendale county. No doubt in my mind that
16 somebody had a concern that there would be some
17 nuclear waste somewhere. But somewhere down
18 the line that Savannah River Site was able to
19 plant them self there and made a good living
20 for a lot of people. Even though that some of
21 the things that may had went on out there may
22 have scared some lives, but in all it made more
23 people prosper than it did on the other hand.

24 And I'm saying to you all tonight, I'm not
25 denying you all that you all may not have a

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1 problem. But I'm saying take a second look at
2 what you're doing and think about the magnitude
3 of people that you can hurt at this age instead
4 of the people that you can help.

5 I know, I worked at Savannah River Plant
6 for 34 years, DHEC monitors Savannah River
7 Plant, DHEC monitors noise; decibels, 85
8 decibels. And I don't know what the decibel
9 level is where you all live at. But is it --
10 is it a constant noise, then DHEC should be
11 able to tell us that. But I'm saying to you
12 all, just don't throw the balloon out just
13 because you have the opportunity to do so. Let
14 us brace Grant. And I believe if Grant has a
15 problem now that need to be resolved, through
16 the trials they'll resolve the problem and we
17 all will be more prospered tomorrow than we are
18 today. Think about that my brothers.

19 (Audience applauds.)

20 MS. MOYE: Thank you Mr. Pinckney. Now I
21 will ask anyone who has decided during the
22 course of the evening that they would like to
23 make a statement to please raise your hand.
24 Okay, you can come on up. If you'll please
25 remember just to state your name for the court

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1 reporter.

2 MICHAEL WHITAKER: Ladies and gentlemen,
3 my name is Michael Whitaker and I am an
4 employee of Grant Allendale and I live right
5 across the street from Buddy Hooper. I don't
6 normally talk in front of groups. I'm not
7 comfortable up here. But I will tell you this,
8 I am proud of my job. I run that equipment
9 that you're complaining about. And I am the
10 closest employee to that mill. So if there was
11 a problem there I would fix it because I am the
12 environmental abatement technician for Grant
13 Allendale. I work for Steve Pohl. And that's
14 all I have to say.

15 (Audience applauds.)

16 BUDDY HOOPER: Well, let me -- let me say
17 something. This young man, I think a lot of
18 him and his dad and his mom and all of them.
19 But I'm not lying when I say that the chemicals
20 is burning my eyes. I'm not just getting up
21 here --

22 MS. MOYE: And you have --

23 BUDDY HOOPER: -- bringing a ghost story.

24 MS. MOYE: Right. And we appreciate --

25 BUDDY HOOPER: And -- and --

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1 MS. MOYE: -- that you made those comments

2 --

3 BUDDY HOOPER: But -- but my neighbor --

4 MS. MOYE: -- during the comments period.

5 BUDDY HOOPER: -- is trying to make me out
6 as a liar and I -- I am -- I am -- I've got one
7 eye gone and I don't want to lose the other one
8 and I'm not wanting to -- Grant to close down.

9 All I want them to do is --

10 MS. MOYE: Mr. Hooper.

11 BUDDY HOOPER: -- clear up the air.

12 MS. MOYE: We appreciate your comments --

13 BUDDY HOOPER: Thank you.

14 MS. MOYE: -- and we've given you an
15 opportunity to make those, so if we could, if
16 there's anyone else who would like to make a
17 comment who has not had the opportunity to
18 speak tonight please raise your hand now.

19 (No one raises their hand.)

20 On behalf of DHEC, I would like to thank
21 everyone for your comments. The comment
22 portion of this public hearing is now
23 concluded.

24 Before we adjourn this hearing, I would
25 like to explain the process DHEC will follow in

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1 making a decision on the draft permit.

2 Following this public hearing and formal
3 comment period, DHEC will make a decision as to
4 whether the draft permit should be approved,
5 approved with conditions, disapproved, or
6 modified. This decision will be based upon the
7 review and consideration of the applicable
8 State and Federal Air Quality Regulations, the
9 review of comments made at this hearing in the
10 form of a transcript, the review of all other
11 comments received within the required time
12 frame, and the consideration of any other
13 pertinent information.

14 As stated earlier tonight, written
15 comments may be submitted through close of
16 business on November 20th, 2008. All written
17 comments received on or before this date will
18 be considered as part of the decision-making
19 process.

20 A copy of the Notice of Appeal Procedures
21 is included in your hearing folder. These are
22 the procedures that must be followed if a final
23 review, otherwise known as an appeal, is
24 requested after a permit decision has been
25 made. Any affected person has the right to

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1 request a final review, or appeal, of any
2 permit decision made by DHEC. This request
3 must be made in writing to DHEC's Clerk of the
4 Board within fifteen (15) days after notice of
5 DHEC's decision has been mailed. In
6 consideration of this requirement, if you
7 indicated on the hearing sign-in sheet that you
8 wanted to receive any future information about
9 the permit for Grant Allendale, or if you have
10 submitted comments either before, during, or
11 after this hearing, you will receive
12 notification of DHEC's decision by standard
13 U.S. Mail. However, if you wish to be notified
14 of DHEC's decision by certified mail, please
15 see Karen Lee or Soraya Purvis near the sign-in
16 table, before you leave. If you choose to make
17 your certified mail request in writing, you are
18 asked to do so by the close of the comment
19 period on November 20th, 2008.

20 Finally, I would like to point out that
21 there is a public participation feedback survey
22 in your folder. We are interested in knowing
23 your thoughts and suggestions on what you liked
24 or didn't like about tonight's hearing and how
25 we can improve our public participation

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1 efforts. Please take a moment to complete this
2 survey and place it in the box on the sign-in
3 table as you leave. Any comments or
4 suggestions are appreciated and will be kept
5 anonymous.

6 Thank you for being here, for giving your
7 comments and for listening to everyone
8 respectfully.

9 On behalf of DHEC, I would again like to
10 thank everyone for your attendance. The time
11 is now 7:10 P.M. and this hearing is official
12 adjourned. No further formal recording of this
13 hearing will take place. Thank you.

14
15 WHEREUPON, THERE BEING NOTHING FURTHER, THE
16 PUBLIC HEARING IS CONCLUDED AT 7:10 P.M.

